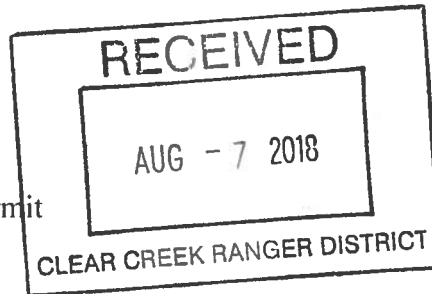


John B. Wood
5550 Dudley Court
Arvada, CO 80002

August 3, 2018

Clear Creek Ranger District
Attention: Loveland Dry Gulch
P.O. Box 3307
Idaho Springs, CO 80452

RE: Proposed Outfitter-Guide Permit
Loveland Basin



Dear Mr. Haas,

As an avid Colorado backcountry skier for the past 50 years, I am writing to oppose the application by Loveland Basin for an Outfitter-Guide Permit for approximately 210 acres at the head of Dry Gulch.

Over the years, I have watched backcountry skiing opportunities evaporate at Vail (due to the expansion into Blue Sky Basin), Breckenridge (Peak 10), Copper Mountain (the Union Bowl expansion eliminated access to Jacques Peak and Copper Creek), Keystone (Jones Gulch), and A-Basin (Montezuma Bowl, the Beaver Brook Run and the Beaver Chutes). At some point, the ever-expanding lift-served and motorized commercial uses need to yield to the large group of skiers who prefer to work for their turns and to have a chance to find untracked snow. Dry Gulch is an appropriate area to draw that line.

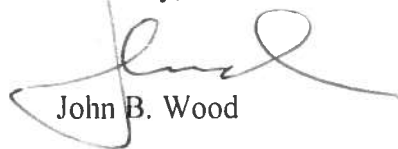
Dry Gulch is readily accessible from the Denver metropolitan area and already receives significant use from backcountry skiers. Unlike the Mine Dumps (which is monopolized by automobile oriented skiers), Dry Gulch has been utilized by AT skiers and telemarkers and offers a pure, remote experience. This remains true even if Loveland Basin operates a snow-cat operation in the portion of Dry Gulch that is within its SUP. Because of the terrain at the head of Dry Gulch, the 210 acres in question offer an experience that is separated from the SUP portion of the gulch and will still appeal to non-motorized users.

On the other hand, Loveland Basin already has plenty of backcountry terrain within its SUP on Mt. Trelease and into Dry Gulch that it has not utilized. It is consequently hypocritical for the area to claim that there is a demonstrated need to add an additional 210 acres. In essence, the current permit application represents an attempt to end-run the federally mandated process for enlarging the SUP boundaries and should be rejected.

On my trips into this area (specifically on the fringe of the 210 subject acres), I have also observed the presence of snow-shoe hare, a favorite food source for lynx. I consequently hope that, at the very least, the application undergoes a full NEPA environmental review to determine potential impacts upon wildlife habitat and migration corridors.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my viewpoint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John B. Wood', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

John B. Wood